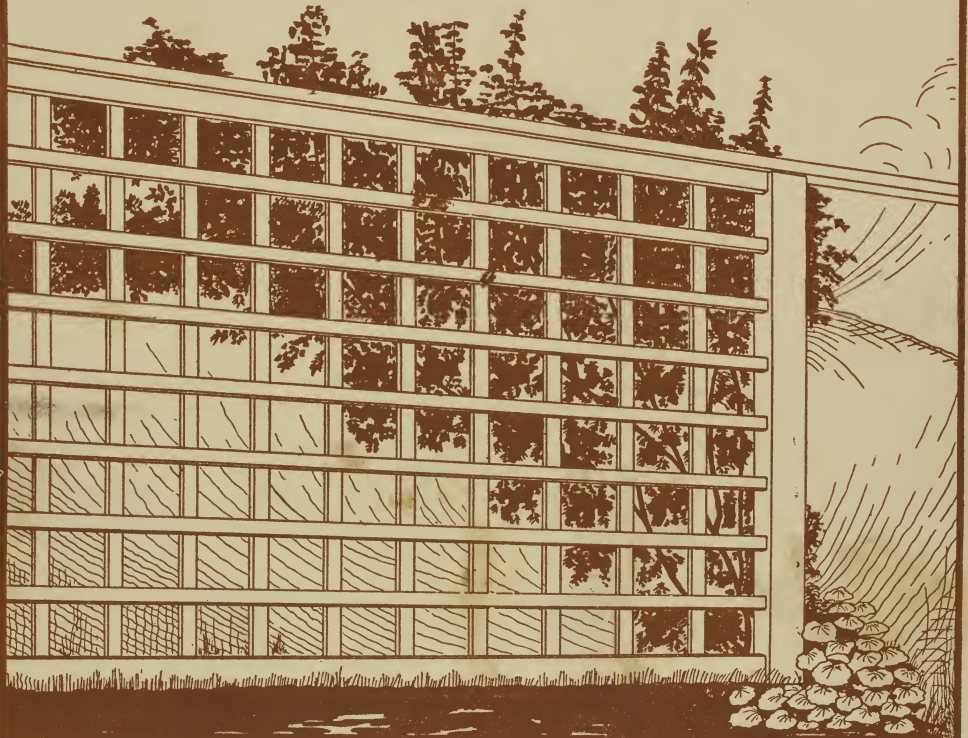


California Garden



IN THIS NUMBER

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JUNE, 1925

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, JUNE, 1925,

No. 12

:: AN ADVENTURE. ::

It was begun March thirty-first, in Los Angeles, when we climbed into the Ford car, and packed ourselves among a lot of baggage—much of it unnecessary, the itinerary we had in mind was through Whittier, over the Turnbull Canyon to the Valley Boulevard, to Riverside, through Redlands, through San Geronia Pass to Coachella Valley, through Imperial Valley to Calexico, then over the mountains to San Diego, and up the Coast Highway home.

This program was carried out to the letter, but the thrills, the delightful surprises, and the pleasures, with the annoyances, which met us along the way, were not dreamed of when the journey was begun.

From the top of the mountain of Turnbull Canyon, that part of the San Gabriel Valley to the north of it is a beautiful panorama of alfalfa fields, Avocado and Walnut orchards, citrus fruit groves and vegetable gardens. Even the north side of the mountain is terraced and planted to Avocados. When this point was reached, clouds appeared in the west, and by the time we arrived at Riverside, rain began to fall. At Highgrove, it came down in torrents. Fortunately for us, the car is a closed one, which kept us dry, and the highway is paved, so driving was not difficult.

The first delightful surprise was the great beds of Evening Primrose (*Oenothera Californica*) growing along the railroad right-of-way, east of Ontario. Now this species is white when it opens at eventide, and becomes a delightful shade of pink the next morning moreover, it is delightfully fragrant. The highway through this sandy stretch of country, is barely wide enough for two machines to pass. Therefore, not to obstruct travel, I pulled off to one side to stop at these flower beds, and when I went to start, I discovered that the machine was stuck fast in the sand. I always carry a steel wire tow line with me, and during my ten years' experience driving a Ford, this was but the third time I had occasion to use it. That was Annoyance Number One. A Ford truck came along, and the driver was gracious enough to pull us out of the sand onto the solid road, and re-

fused to accept a reward for his services; which leads me to say that altruism still lives in the hearts of men.

At Highgrove a tire went flat, and a new one at that! We drove into one of those garages which seem to be designed to separate auto drivers from their cash, without giving satisfactory service. The young fellow who undertook the job of removing the tire from the rim, was a novice at the work, but after a half hour of hard labor, he succeeded. The tube proved to be perforated without apparent cause. Evidently, it was one of those defective species known as "seconds", which unscrupulous dealers hand out to unsuspecting drivers, who pay the bill, and sooner or later, usually sooner, come to grief, and that too, in places where repairs are often difficult to obtain! The same lad who removed the tire from the rim, put two patches on the tube, and when the tire was replaced, one of the patches proved to be worthless, and the whole performance had to be done over again. All this work required an hour and a quarter of his time, and of ours, and when I asked what his charges were, he did have a conscience, if not skill, and said, "fifty cents". This was Annoyance Number Two.

Out into the pouring rain we drove, our journey to renew. Arriving at Redlands, we were told that the highway to Beaumont was under re-construction, so we were obliged to retrace our course, and get onto the Canyon Drive which follows the railroad, and an easy grade it is. We were told it was a dirt road, and it was still raining! Heavens! My experience with such roads led me to think of a slippery drive, with the mud flying in every direction, the machine skidding perilously from side to side, in constant danger of upsetting, and our hearts sank within us for fear of the results. But it is not a dirt road in the general accepted sense of the term, but gravel surfaced and well-kept. The rain laid the dust, and the drive was a pleasant one. The grain fields of that valley were lush and green, in marked contrast to those of the 'dry farmer's' around Los Angeles.

At Beaumont, we were on the paved road

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again. It was washed clean, and as smooth as a billiard ball. The joy, the delight of driving over such roads is not easily conveyed to the mind of a reader. It must be experienced to be understood. Acres of cherry, apple and pear trees coming into bloom—a sight to thrill the hearts of all lovers of natural beauty. Apricot trees well set with fruit, promised a bountiful crop, luscious in quality. The rain continued while we drove through the Pass, but ceased when we arrived on the floor of the wind swept valley. All the while, the summits of the two mountains were swathed in clouds of snow and rain, which gave us a clear idea of why it is, that on the tops of those mountains, are perennial springs, Alpine meadows, Bog plants, Pines, Oaks, Maples, and other vegetation not found in the valleys or in the desert at their base.

The White Water River Valley had been swept with wind; the foliage was stripped off the Desert Willow (*Chilopsis saligna*), which is not a willow at all, but a member of the Bignonia family of trees. I say trees, because when this shrub is given some water during the hot dry summers, and grown out of the way of violent winds, it does attain to a large sized tree, and very beautiful when in full bloom.

The floor of that valley is thickly covered with a low hardy shrub known as Indigo bush, which, when in bloom, is a conspicuous plant,

because the dark violet colored flower, is in marked contrast to the gray color of the plant, and to the sandy ground in which it grows. *Dalea Californica* is the generally accepted botanic name for this shrub, but Armstrong, in her book, "Western Wild Flowers", uses the word, *Parosela*, as a Generic name for this tribe of shrubs. Saunders, in his "Useful Wild Plants", says of it, "the Desert Indians used to obtain from it a yellowish-brown dye".

Palm Springs, a unique little hamlet which nestles at the base of San Jacinto Mountain, was reached just as the sun was disappearing behind the towering summit of "San Jac". Never a drop of rain had fallen in the valley during the storm. Even so, the vegetation in that Oasis, to which water was applied, was luxuriant. Over all this state, Oleanders are grown in great quantity, but nowhere in California do they attain to such proportions as in that locality. On the first day of April, they were beginning to bloom. This quiet retreat has been robbed of most of its delightful simplicity, its romantic charm, its restfulness and its remedial qualities for frazzled nerves, by the advent of the highway. Time was, when to reach it, a drive over six miles of desert road from the railway station of the same name, was necessary. But on arrival, the seeker after rest and relaxation was not disturbed by the sound of chugging trucks during the day, nor by the glare of automobile headlights, by night.

We are making progress in material things, but paying a fearful price in forsaking the way of simple living, and destroying the soothing, restful resorts. The main street of this town was being paved its entire width. When the work is complete, it will be a great improvement over the present sandy, dusty road. South of this place, a short distance, is a clump of sure enough Palo Verde trees. Palo Verde is the Spanish term for Green Tree. The proper name for this subject is *Ceridium Torryanum*. It is quite a different tree from *Parkinsonia Aculeata*, which is also given the same common name. The flowers of the *Ceridium* are a clear golden-yellow, while those of *Parkinsonia* have one petal colored a light red. Moreover the seed pods of the latter are constricted between the seeds, while the pods of the former are flat. Then, too, *Parkinsonia* is a very thorny tree, while the *Ceridium* is not. *Parkinsonias* are to be found in some nurseries in this southland, but never a specimen of *Ceridium*.

Among the remarkable features of the desert are the many sand dunes, indeed, many sand hills, formed by the species of shrubs known as Mesquite. Their proper names are: *Prosopis Juliflora*, the one which bears the flat beans that are of great nutri-

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K. O. S. IN GAY PAREE.

GARDENS OF VERSAILLES AND LUXEMBOURG

The gardens of Versailles, 12 miles outside of Paris, are very extensive and very formal. Many fountains and large pools add greatly to the beauty and grandeur. This year the fountains play, one after the other, about 3:30 to 4:30 p. m., twice per month on Sunday. Generally only once a month. The grass and formally trimmed trees and shrubs all looked well, but there were no beds of flowers in bloom now, but will be in the summer. There are many great courts and expanses of gravel and coarse stone pavements. The palaces are magnificent and more or less interesting. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Grand Trianon was erected by Louis the XIV a mile or so away from the palace where he could retire for rest from the ceremonials of the palace. Near by was built the Little Trianon by Louis XV for similar rest and recreation, and here Marie Antoinette preferred to live. Adjoining this charming little palace was built a most beautiful park, and quaint and beautiful little houses were there erected, where the queen and her court ladies enjoyed the simple life and one building was a dairy. These buildings and their surroundings in this large and beautiful park was to me the most charming part of the Versailles trip. The gilded palace and royal beds were nothing to compare with the magnificent trees 200 years old. There was one Copper beech, 2 feet in diameter at its base, that was absolutely perfect in shape and fully 100 feet high. It looked as though there had never been a branch pruned or cut. There were many other of the same trees about but smaller and more irregular. The entire park was like a natural woodland with fine, broad pathways, streams of water, good sized pools; natural rock bridges, moss covered and old. A rocky grotto, with trickling waters; wild flowers in abundance and variety throughout the fields. In some places old boxwood and yews and euonymous plantings made a heavy growth, and some boxwoods were 15 feet high, but of an irregular and uneven shape. The horsechestnut or buckeye trees were many and very large and in full foliage and heavy with buds; lots of its sprouted seeds were in all the compost piles. The European Sycamore was just breaking into leaf. Some very fine holly or ilex shrubs of good size. Many large and beautiful elm trees in half foliage and many trees I did not know. The walks must have been three-quarters of a mile in length and one could take many a side pathway if there had been time. There were three large trees that seemed to be Sequoia

gigantea and several of the deciduous Magnolia laden with their large white tulip-like flowers. Four Wisterias of enormous size—main trunk fully 10 inches in diameter and well trained laterals 3 and 4 inches and very severely pruned—covered the side of a large building. They were full of buds but no color showing.

As we neared the residential buildings many flower beds were prepared for summer blooming plants. As it was a pleasant day the number of visitors was very great.

The Luxembourg gardens are very near my hotel in the Latin quarter of Paris and near St. Sulpice church. Originally designed for Marie de Medici, the Italian Queen of Henry IV in 1612, they are laid out in the formal Italian style. There must be fully 40 acres within the fine iron fence. There are very wonderful avenues of large trees—making heavy shade. Many open pavilions roofed over for protection from rain. Open spaces for ball and tennis games, but no formal courts. Piles of light gravel that little children shovel over and over in their little pails. This great park so in the heart of the older part of the city is much patronized by children and parents and people every fair hour of every day. It is the loafing and resting place of the many students of this section of the city. There is a very fine grove where the band plays Sunday afternoons. A lagre pool with a heavy flow of water had many little play sail boats, 2 feet in length, that were skipping over the surface with each gust of wind. In one section a very fine collection of fruit trees—each one labeled as to variety and time of fruiting—trees trained to perfection, flat on wire frames, in pyramids, in circles, in columns. Such perfection of tying always with tiny twigs of willow, perhaps, no string used.

The fruit trees are of very many sorts and of great age. It was a great pleasure and a fine lesson for me. A gardener was spading up the ground among them—for they were very closely planted. This orchard was in several sections and each protected by a high light iron fence.

There is a large rose garden in the park—laid out in formal beds—with a box hedge 12 inches by 12 inches around each bed. The beds were all 8 feet wide and many feet in length, set out to bush roses and 2½ feet apart—all severally pruned and each labeled. At regular intervals very tall and medium growing climbing roses were set, trained to a slender iron circular trellis, and at each end of the garden some standard or tree roses. I made a copy of the plan and I think this way of training the climbing roses can be used to some extent in our gardens. Near the

buildings the flower beds were very formal and filled with early flowering annuals, and also perennials that will bloom later. Mixed tulips of all kinds in large oval beds with a border of blue viola—all in full bloom—long beds of forgetmenots and yellow primroses for border.

Beds of blue violas and canterbury bells to bloom later and a border of a dwarf white candytuft. Another bed of mixed tulips and delphiniums for later bloom. A very dark red and very dwarf wall flower in splendid bloom is very popular throughout Paris just now. These beds are bordered with many varieties of primroses, a very dwarf and small white stock, forgetmenots, yellow pansies, etc. There are many fine statues throughout this park and about their base are splendid groups of plants—depending on the size of the monument. I noticed fine gray stone figures of the following women—Louise de Savoie, Regent of France, 1476-1532.

Marguerete D'Anjou, 1425-1482.

St. Genevieve, patron of Paris, 423-512.

And there were several others, but the rain drove me homeward.

The stone of which they were made is of a very wonderful grey color and their gowns looked as soft as silk and some of the carving was very fine and delicate. There were very large hawthorn shrubs, veritable trees, in full bud and one showed a red color. How beautiful they will be when in full bloom.

English Ivy is used in so many ways and is so fine; as borders for beds about the base of statues, over the trunks of large trees, in garland form along pathways, with posts between, over railings and balustrades. In one place a beautiful carved spray of ivy as a head for a water spout at a fountain, was very pleasing.

All these fine parks with their perfect trees and shrubs, prove the skill of their care takers and makers, one fully realizes that more and better trained men for our gardens is a serious and immediate necessity. All the lawns had a light, low iron trellis, benches free and chairs for rental at 20 centimes. The white and purple lilac along their edges for a protection, is the one universal shrub now in full bud and coming fast into bloom throughout the parks, and everywhere it is the most common flower for sale at all the shops and stands.

WAS IT CRIME OR MISADVENTURE?

This spring a pair of Orioles started a nest in the folds of the school flag at Fallbrook, and this being discovered a sack was hung up in place of the flag at the time of its down-hauling. Note the day, it was Friday when this happened and on Monday the orioles were well along with their building in the sack. During the week construction sup-

posedly proceeded but towards the end doubts and fears of abandonment caused a curious pupil to take down the sack and investigate. The nest was half completed, but below, securely sewed in, was an oriole, dead of course. The bird was sewed through the wing and all the tailoring was in the neatest of stitches made with palm fibre.

Why was this bird thus imprisoned? Did it get caught by the feet in the sack and its mate give a burial, or was it an enemy disposed of Mikado-like in a lingering but humorous manner. Possibly Theodore Roosevelt and John Burroughs would have dismissed the case with the verdict that the dead bird while alive got in the way of the stitches, but, Oh, what a story Ernest Thompson Seton could make of his summing up.

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The Midsummer Gardens

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Mary A. Matthews.

Carry on the work of last month, transplanting any annuals or perennials you may desire for the summer garden. While mostly hardy plants are used for the ornamentation of our flower gardens during late summer and fall there are numerous things that can still be planted that endure only for a season. Get your beds and borders ready before hand by turning over the soil several inches deep, and when planting dig your hole for the plant and let a good cupful of water sink in before putting in the plant, this is more apt to be a success than if the plant is watered after being put in the hole, draw the earth round the plant and press firmly down with the foot, so as not to let the moisture escape. Treated in this manner most any well rooted plant can be shifted and come through all right. Snapdragons of good size, if they have been properly hardened off, may be put out where they are to bloom. Very rich soil must be avoided as it tends to produce leaf and stem rather than blooms. Do not over crowd any plants when putting out, but leave room enough for side branches to develop. Verbenas, bedding petunias, and there are some very delicate (and beautiful shades in these to be had, such as "Blue Bird", "Rose of Heaven", Pink Beauty, etc.), dwarf nasturtiums can all be used as fillers where bulbs have to be lifted, and if you are going to lift your bulbs do it now, just as the foliage is turning brown. Plant that most gorgeous of all annuals, the Zinnia, with its wonderful range of color, long stems and good keeping qualities. This old fashioned flower is a joy in the summer garden. Vaughan says: "The plants may be taken up when in full bloom and transplanted without any visible effect." Already a trophy has been offered by a warm friend of the Floral Association for the best general collection of Zinnias to be shown at the fall Flower Show. Now is your time to make plans to compete for it.

From now till August is the most favorable time to plant and divide bearded Iris. Do not divide though till the plants have increased and begin to push out of the soil. Iris seldom give best results till they have been established for several seasons. When planting it is important that the soil be

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

Here it is almost the end of June, and most of us hardly realize that summer is really here. From now on for the next three or four months we are called upon to give the garden the close attention necessary to keep the plants in a state of uniform healthy growth through the warm weather, hot sun and drying winds of our regular summer weather.

The first requisite is moist condition of soil to a good depth, good cultivation with a fine surface, and keeping ground free of weeds and anything that will give shelter to insect pest. The first part of the program is better and more permanent, if the water is run in furrows, long enough to soak down to a good depth, and then followed as soon as possible by a good cultivation. A surface mulch of well rotted manure is particularly valuable at this time of year to conserve moisture and prevent baking.

In the vegetable garden as well as the flower garden, continue to keep on the war-path for insect pests of all descriptions, and do not wait for blight, rust or mildew to attack your various plants, but apply the spray first, and so prevent the disease.

There are two somewhat new sprays now on the market that seem to be giving a good deal of satisfaction to those who have tried them. Qua-sul, which is particularly good for mildew and does not stain the flowers, and Volck, for almost all kinds of scale and other plant and tree pests.

There has been a good deal of the usual complaint of falling blossoms on tomato vines, and no fruit setting. This is largely the result of (up to the last few days) cool weather and over-watering. Don't spray your tomato plants, but basin round them and water thoroughly about every ten days or two weeks followed by thorough cultivation, if the basin is not partially filled with manure.

Look out for your cucumbers and melons and if there is any sign of blight, pull off the affected leaves and burn them, and spray the vines with Bordeaux Mixture, or if eaten by beetles or other insects with Arsenate of Lead.

Continue to plant beans and sweet corn, and sow cabbage and cauliflower for fall and

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The California Garden

A. D. Robinson, Editor
Office, Rosecroft, Point Loma, Cal.
Mrs. Sidney E. Mayer, Associate Editor
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Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Vice-President
Wm. P. Brothers, Treasurer

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
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EDITORIAL

For two months or more the Floral Magazines have been full of reports of shows, both at home and abroad, and a long letter from K. O. Sessions has been devoted to the noted Chelsea event just outside London, where she spent several days. The letter press and the pictures seem to be exclusively given over to professional exhibits and this seems the trend of the majority of exhibitions, in other words they are becoming concentrated advertising stunts. The professionals, almost without exception, buy space as they do in periodicals and arrange their exhibits with the advertising pull uppermost in their minds. Granted that this has resulted in wonderful demonstrations and that in the large centers, especially abroad, immense crowds have attended, it is yet a debatable matter as to whether the cause of the small garden and the interest of the ordinary amateur gardener has been advanced, in fact many do not hesitate to say that a quite opposite effect has taken place.

It is not an easy matter to nicely adjust the balance between amateur and professional in floral exhibitions, and for the matter of that in floral organizations, the one needs the other, but of the two the amateur represents life blood to the professional while he is merely a convenience to the amateur.

Floral organizations and shows need numbers and amateur ranks alone can supply them.

In small communities, and by this is meant anything under a hundred thousand, exhibi-

tions must include both classes, and the effect of the exhibit on the attendance of the public must be considered. It is this fact that has led to an over-emphasis of professional exhibits with its attending danger of possible discouragement rather than help to the amateur and now and then a regrettable swelling of the ego on the other side.

Past history on the Pacific Coast shows clearly that a preponderance of the professional side can kill any floral organization with deadly precision. Not here is it proper to discuss and support this statement, but a brief research will amply sustain it, and it is hoped that it will be understood that no reproach of the professionals is intended, it is inherent in the different sides of approach of the subject that two different methods are evolved both of which cannot prove successful.

The San Diego Floral Association has been peculiarly fortunate in that its professionals were so leavened with amateurism that they have been an unalloyed help, but the principle remains that such organizations are for the encouragement and help of the amateur in the first place and all through and this basic fact should never be forgotten.

San Diego is rapidly passing beyond that blessed state of being small enough to retain the family spirit. It is coming daily closer to the size when one's neighbor is the man next door and not Friend Jones, and therein lies great danger for its Floral Association. Larger communities have said, when considering the success of this organization as contrasted with their own lack of success in a similar effort, we cannot do it because we are too large, we cannot get our people together. To be forewarned is to be forearmed, sometimes, we are bound to grow, are we foredoomed to cease to come together therefore. Not if we can retain the family spirit and to do that we must act like a family. We have a wonderful home in Balboa Park and in its ever increasing use lies salvation. There we should meet and be sociable. It should be so that if any floral crank has a specimen stirring his pride or chagrin, he can take it to the Floral Home assured that there he will find at least one other crank with whom he can thoroughly cuss and discuss the matter. It should be like a hive of bees with members coming and going all the time.

The two big shows of the Floral Association are not the real work of the year, they are merely sort of graduating exercises, tests of the days between, the days of planting, watering and cultivating, hoping, praying and cussing and on these days must the association focus.

Throughout the history of organization, formed to develop and encourage members, means have been sought to bring out an ex-

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

change of thought that would indicate where help was most needed and of what character, and the Question and Answer method has been almost universally adopted. It has but one weak point and that is the indifference or diffidence of the needy who won't ask questions. Perhaps the great need of the Floral Association and particularly its magazine, California Garden, is a steady stream of questions. Several efforts have been made to start a Question and Answer column, but most any one, even an editor, feels foolish to keep asking himself questions and answering them, especially when he picks out questions he can answer, and that stupid practice was the only way to keep the column alive. It is in the nature of things that one only questions what he does not know and any one competent to write on a subject makes the poorest kind of a questioner.

This is the last number of the magazine in this volume, with the July issue it represents a new Board of Directors and to them is recommended the above mental meanderings which if devoid of other merit are recorded with a real desire to be helpful.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The nineteenth annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held on the evening of Tuesday, June the sixteenth, at the Floral Home, in Balboa Park, with a very small attendance.

With the exception to two most pleasing groups of musical numbers by Miss Kathryn Thompson, vocalist and harp soloist, the evening was wholly devoted to the business of the society. The president, Mr. A. D. Robinson, presided. Reports of the treasurer, secretary and chairman of the house committee were read and accepted, and a most interesting address on the present state of the society was made by the president. Following this came the election of the board of directors for the coming year. There were twelve nominations from the floor, of which the following seven were elected:

Mr. A. D. Robinson
Mrs. Mary A. Greer
Mr. William P. Brothers
Mr. Walter Birch
Mr. Louis A. Blochman
Miss Mary Matthews
Mr. Alford B. Partridge

After the election refreshments were served and a pleasant hour was spent discussing things in general and floral matters in particular.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

In making a report for the house committee quite a special interest is felt beside the

mere statement of facts.

Since acquiring this building, a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction has grown with the responsibility of caring for it.

It doesn't seem quite "house" but "home" and we like to regard our relations to it somewhat as members of a family. I'm sure many others must have had the same feeling,—as proven by their gifts of books, pictures and other things that are for the enjoyment of all.

The large picture of wild flowers was given by Miss Spring of Pt. Loma. The lovely "Goddess of Flora" was sent to us by our own Miss Sessions from Italy. The copper bowl on the table was given by Mrs. Frevert in memory of Mr. Frevert. Many books have come to us this year of which Miss Matthews, the librarian, will tell. Mr. and Mrs. Dryden gave a lovely flower basket and Mrs. Doyle has brought us some needed punch glasses.

There have been five flower shows given in this room this year: A dahlia show, a chrysanthemum show, a berried shrub show, a spring bulb show and a gladioli show. All were well attended, giving pleasure and profit to many. These, with our two big shows, make seven for the year.

There have been eleven regular monthly meetings with good programs and an average attendance of seventy. The home is open every Thursday afternoon from two until five, for the use of the library. We will pour tea on the second Thursday of every month, when we talk over our garden problems.

In the near future we hope to give a little garden party with music and tea, when old time friends may meet the new members and talk about the future activities of the Floral Association.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY A. GREER.

MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD

The newly elected Board of Directors of The San Diego Floral Association held its first meeting at the Association's home in Balboa Park Friday afternoon, June 10th.

As soon as the meeting was called to order Mrs. Mary A. Greer, the vice-president, read a letter from President Alfred D. Robinson stating that business reasons necessitated his resigning as President of the Association and as a member of the Board of Directors. As many members of the Board of Directors and of the Association had previously made strenuous efforts to induce Mr. Robinson to refrain from taking this action, the Board of Directors felt that conditions compelled it to yield to Mr. Robinson's decision, and his resignation was regretfully accepted.

Mr. John G. Morley has felt for sometime that, with his many duties as Superintendent

of Balboa Park, he would not be able to devote the time necessary to act as a member of the Board of Directors for the coming year. As there existed a strong feeling among the directors that Mr. Morley's services could not well be spared at this time, a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting Mr. Morley to reconsider his decision and to consent to serve as a director.

Proceeding to the election of officers, Mr. L. A. Blochman was elected president, Mrs. Mary A. Greer vice-president, Mr. William P. Brothers treasurer. Secretary Walter Merrill having expressed himself as unable to serve the coming year and the Board desiring to secure the most competent person possible to fill the vacancy, the question of Mr. Merrill's successor was left over to the next meeting of the board.

Mr. Robinson having expressed his desire to gradually relinquish the editorship of the California Garden, Mr. L. A. Blochman was named by the Board as Associate Editor to assist Mr. Robinson.

The next meeting of the board will be held July 8th.

LIBRARY NOTES

Among the books in the Library will be found the amateurs book of the Dahlia, by Mrs. Clifford Stout. This book is considered authoritative and its instructions are accepted by the commercial grower as well as the amateur. Most of the magazines contain timely articles on the three leading subjects in the garden at the present time, Iris, Dahlias, and Gladiolus. "Gardeners' Chronicle of America" has an article on "Growing Chrysanthemums by the Amateur," with directions so simple and yet so to the point that no one interested can fail to profit thereby.

Garden Magazine and Home Builder gives a sketch of all the large spring shows, telling what best things were exhibited and what good these shows are to the flower loving public. One very good article, "Give the Little Fellow a Chance", takes the attitude that the amateur is so crowded out by the commercial that they have no chance. That these shows should be chiefly for the encouragement of the small grower and that these large and expensive designs put on by the commercial people while enhancing the beauty of the show tend to discourage the amateur.

FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA, SENT BY K. O. S. JANUARY, 1925.

Let us celebrate the soil. Most men toil that they may own a piece of it; they measure their success in life by their ability to buy it. Broad acres are a patent of nobility;

and no man but feels more of a man in the world if he have a bit of ground that he can call his own.

There is great pleasure in working in the soil, apart from the ownership of it. The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world. He belongs to the producers.

Blessed be agriculture!—if one does not have too much of it.

CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

THE NATURE LOVER, A CONSERVATIONIST

Conservation is a live issue in this generation, live because we are at last faced with the fact that the end of many of our natural resources is plainly in sight.

Much has been written as to ways and means which must be evolved if we are to maintain our economic prosperity, and support our rapidly growing population, the estimated figures of whose numbers in the days to come, fairly make us gasp. But wiser heads than ours must guide the readjustment in a wonderful world, and to a wondering people, for already "the earth has become a whispering gallery, and the ocean has lost its solitude" and of the marvels yet to come, no one can prophesy.

Conservation from the angle of the nature lover spells the preservation of all natural beauty, for what we love, that we protect. Americans have never been lovers of nature in the sense that are our British cousins, though our forefathers came to a continent variously and richly endowed with nature's most splendid gifts. Possibly because a home had to be won in the almost impenetrable wilderness, and a nation reared to prosperity against fearful odds, the opportunity was lacking for the enjoyment of the beauty spread on every hand. Even the forest was reckoned an enemy to be fought and conquered, which if left unchecked encroached upon the clearings made with such toil, and amid such hardships. Now alas, with less than one-fifth of our marketable timber left standing, we think with dismay and regret of our dealings with nature, which have ever been both clumsy and crude.

We have need then of more nature lovers who will care for and protect the beauties of forest, stream and wayside, to love and enjoy nature, a serious study of botany is necessary, and for this, there is for most of us, little time in our intricate and hurried days.

There is so much beauty in the apparently haphazard planting of nature's gardens, with never a jarring note or a plant misplaced, and yet beneath all there is a plan of which we have never found the complete key. No flower ever wasted its fragrance on the desert air, each one has a mission, whose fulfill-

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ment often is dependent upon the interest and affection which leaves it undisturbed.

The problem which needs solving, is how to awaken and enlist an army which shall protect the frontiers where nature still holds sway, and beauty gladdens all who pass.

MARGARET L. GAGE.

Garden Club of Litchfield.

BOOSTING THE BAMBOO

For 25 years the United States Department of Agriculture has been studying the bamboo and its behavior in the soils and climate of the United States. A number of different kinds of bamboo have been found to be adaptable and have become established in small groves in the South Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and Pacific Coast States where their beauty and charm as well as varied utilization have caused the traveler to view them with interest. Most of these plantings have been introduced from the Orient, chiefly Japan and China, where the bamboo is so intimately bound up with the life of the people. That groves have not been established is due to the fact that good plants are too bulky to transport great distances.

The studies of the department, however, have yielded a method of propagation by means of underground root cuttings, or rhizomes, which may be easily transported and replanted with reasonable assurance that they will grow. Several groves are maintained by the department as nurseries where rhizomes for propagating material are now being produced for subsequent distribution to individuals who desire to co-operate with the department in its work of establishing the bamboo over a wide territory. Some 50 individuals co-operators have been supplied this spring with foundation stock for small groves. This stock was planted in nurseries so that the rhizomes may increase their number and make more stock available for transplanting in the groves proper next spring. Eight to ten years is required to establish a grove that will furnish plants of large size.

In the territory where the bamboo will thrive, namely, the South Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and Pacific Coast States, and some of the States of the lower Mississippi Valley, there are thousands of farms, says the department, where there are opportunities for the development of small bamboo groves of an acre or two in extent. There are no good reasons why most of these farms should not have such groves.

The giant timber bamboo and one or two of the smaller growing kinds, such as the stake bamboo, would be most valuable for these farm-home groves. These groves, if properly handled, in the course of 8 or 10 years would

prove not only a source of profit but would be the means of providing many conveniences for the farm and home, such as light fences, trellises, bean poles, pea stakes, and stakes for flowers and young trees, fish poles and fruit poles, hay-curing racks, and water-carrying pipes.

Bamboo and poultry make a happy combination, and their use in this connection is strongly recommended.

Although many millions of dollars are spent each year for imported bamboo for commercial purposes, this trade cannot be expected to play any part in the demand for home-grown bamboo for a good many years—at least not until enough groves have been established to assure the commercial interests of a continuous supply in a commercial quantity. The beginning of the bamboo industry in this country, then, must be based on its uses in a small way in the garden and around the home.

A BRIEF APPRECIATION OF A NOTED BOTANIST

By K. O. S.

From England Miss Sessions sends the following in appreciation of Professor T. S. Brandegee, who died at his home in Berkeley last April 7th:

Professor T. S. Brandegee and his wife, Katherine Brandegee, were both leading California botanists for many years and they both explored Lower California very thoroughly and found a great number of new plants. They lived for ten years in San Diego, establishing a good garden in the block on First street, between Quince and Redwood, and when they moved to Berkeley to continue their botanical work at the University, their place was sold to the Bishops School and only lately to Mrs. O'Rourke.

In 1900 Miss Sessions made the trip to San Jose del Cabro, the town at Cape St. Lucas, with Mr. Brandegee, to investigate the new palm that was later named for him, *Erythea Brandegei*.

Mrs. Brandegee died about two years ago.

Mr. Brandegee was a constant contributor to all botanical magazines and at one time Mrs. Brandegee was the Botanical Curator of the Academy of Sciences in its first home at Dupont and California streets, San Francisco—Miss Alice Eastwood is now that curator in the Academy's beautiful and permanent home in Golden Gate Park.

Their fine botanical library and their valuable herbarium they gave to the State University after the San Francisco fire, when the California Academy lost so much and it was then that they moved to Berkeley where they could continue their studies and work.

DESERT AND HALF-DESERT SHRUBS

By Fidella G. Woodcock.
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

(Continued from May Number)

A uniform water supply from one source or another is an essential of all plant-life, whether it comes from the atmosphere or the storage wells of the structure by spines, felt-like woolly covers or woolly hairs and these, too, are safeguards against too little or too much rain. Wherever a columnar Cactus or Cereus carries ridges along its stem for water supply developing cardones with water holes for wells, its opposite among the woody shrubs a tree-like trunk of hardened cammium with bordered pits that give moisture to each new growth, both cardone and cammium forming the skeleton.

Each individual has its own means of protection and the Yucca more than others is best provided by the structure of its leaves and their manner of growing first vertically to conserve the moisture for the flowering stalk to bloom, afterward falling into a horizontal position in order, as the vitality goes back to the roots after the blossoming period to protect the root from drought caused by direct light in the heat of summer, to preserve the offshoots that like those of the Palm, are the means of propagating young plants.

A List of Technical and Common Names of Shrubs Mentioned in This Article with Trees Having Dwarf Canyon Forms.

- Quercus agrifolia—Coast Live Oak.
- Quercus Kelloggi—California Black Oak.
- Quercus Douglassi—Blue Oak, Mountain White Oak.
- Quercus chrysolepis—Canyon Live Oak.
- Fremontia californica, var. mexicana—Flannel Bush, California Slippery Elm.
- Fouquiera splendens—Desert Candlewood.
- Parosela spinosa—Desert Smoke Tree.
- Zizyphus Parryi—California Jujube.
- Lycium californicum—California Boxthorn.
- Lycopersicum esculentum—Edible Wild Tomato.
- Ruta graveolens—Bitter Lemon.
- Cneoridium dumosum—Spice-bush.
- Thamnosuma montana—Mountain Citrus.
- Styrax californica—California Styrax.
- Abutilon aurentiacum — Orange-colored Abutilon.
- Echinocactus cylindracens—Barrel Cactus "visnaga".
- Tamarix mannifera—Arabian Manna Tree.
- Yucca mohavensis—Desert or Half-Desert Yucca.
- Yucca Whipplei—Mountain Yucca, Spanish Bayonet.

WHAT "MA" FERGUSON OF TEXAS CABLED TO PARIS ABOUT GARDENING

"It's now the time of the year when the poets get busy and say that 'all's right with the world.' Skies are blue, birds are building nests, trees are bursting into feathery greenness—I almost get poetical myself!

"But the thing I most like to do when spring comes is not to read poetry or make it, or listen to jazz; I want to get out and get my hands dirty in the flower garden

Dirt Gives Faith.

"There is a salutary something in getting down on your knees in the dirt and planting out little flowers. I recommend it to the woman who has been coped up all winter and whose soul is stale and whose temper is brittle.

"No matter how complex your life may be, there is simple joy in scratching a nice, deep line in soft, rich dirt and scattering seeds in it. You catch a shadow of the creative force when you put tender roots down deep and know they will show their gratitude by growing and blooming for you through the long, hot summer days to come. You grasp a release from the set order of things when you think of them pushing up through the dirt and responding to sun and water."

THE SILENT MAKER

How silently God makes each lovely thing! No beat of drum, no startling trumpet blare. One might expect a heavenly choir to sing, seeing there is such beauty everywhere. But not a sound! Nothing to let me know that I, this morning, would come face to face with Lady Iris, all a purple glow; a queenly Iris of exquisite grace.

Lilacs in bloom! It takes one's breath away to come upon such beauty unaware. I heard no sound. But suddenly today, I smelt their perfume in the morning air.

So very lovely is the world just now since God, within the quiet watches of the night, has kissed His meadows and each waiting bough end brought forth blossom for our deep delight. I wonder—is it but a passing thought—if God works silently these fruitful days to show what deeds of worth and beauty can be wrought in unassuming, gentle, silent ways.

WILHELMINA STITCH.

Thursday, May 21.

This woman writes articles each day for the Daily Graphic of London.—K. O. S.

BEGONIA CHAT

SEASONABLE HINTS

Alfred D. Robinson.

Begonias are now growing very fast and those in small pots must be watched for necessary shift to larger sizes. Most fibrous will stand being potbound quite a bit though of course this retards growth even if it induces early blooming. When placed on the ground or on benches covered with sand a large plant will grow in a three-inch pot. All Begonias in pots ought to be so placed that a damp atmosphere may be obtained. Too much insistence cannot be put upon this atmospheric moisture and to neglect it is a general practice, I do not go into one in ten lath houses that has this important moist air. These days, though not hot, have drying winds, especially in the early afternoon, and sprinkling twice a day is indicated. As to this sprinkling a word or so. When I wet my lath house I aim to see that every bit of the ground, including the paths, are wet, as well as pots, baskets, etc. Bitter experience has shown that a spraying of pots on benches is a delusion and a snare, the top of the pot is made to look wet but the soil beneath is not soaked up and nothing so discourages a plant as to have this lick and a promise. At least once a week I take the hose with a slow stream and fill each pot to its capacity. I always throw a spray over all growth, Rexes, tuberous and all, it washes and cleans and at this time of year does no harm. There is always an exception, water on a plant exposed to hot sun will burn. A word more, the condition of the lath house must be continually damp, if you don't like this either you or the plants must suffer.

Returning to potting, Tuberous Begonias don't like being pot bound, when this happens they stop growth and flowers quickly deteriorate, their growth must be succulent rather than woody.

Seedlings must now be brought along as quickly as possible. In pricking out seedlings where they are thick in the seed pan, don't try and separate each one but take a small clump by the hair of their head and plant this. In this move, quite simple, there are two pitfalls, one is leaving loose of the first hold to correct some straggler and trying to save every little plant. Success depends on retaining that first hold till the clump is in its appointed hole. I have had some trouble

with worms working in the seed pans due to not scalding the earth well before planting, but realizing that lots of you will also neglect I set down the only remedy that has proved worthwhile with me. I tried lime water but the worms shed another skin and grew faster, then I soaked in a Black Leaf 40 double strength solution and they died. This solution does not seem to hurt the tiniest seedlings.

The degree of shade under glass or Cello-glass, or even muslin required by Begonias of various types and ages in this climate is not with me definite knowledge or even a good guess. Rexes by this time won't endure any of these coverings unless much shaded, most of the fibrous seem to like more heat and light, and the tuberous almost demand it. Small seedlings turn white almost in a strong light, but grow spindly if shaded. No doubt seedlings should have shade through the middle of the day only, and ideal houses for them would be equipped with easily controlled shades. The placing of Rex seedlings in three-inch pots in different places in the lath house and glass house has clearly shown that their requirements run to filtered sunlight rather than shed and a cool temperature, any part of the glass house is too hot and dry for them now. Many complaints come in about the Rexes not being happy this year. I diagnose the trouble as lack of moisture in the air and directly applied to the plant. In one situation I found Rexes almost leafless growing in soil dry on top and raised on standards high above the ground. Of course they were unhappy and immediately responded to an inch thick top dressing of shredded moss, which was kept moist. There must be a moist condition under a Rex at all times of growth. The question has come in as to what to do with Rexes that have made long stems with just a leaf growth at the end. The ends of these should be cut off and planted as cuttings, they will soon root if kept moist and go right along growing. The old stalks will in most cases send out side sprouts and make good bushy plants. In the past we have been so glad to get anything, new or old either, in Rexes that little attention has been paid to habit of growth, with the result of the dissemination of many varieties of vile habit, a number make just three or four leaves at the most awkward angles

and then hang over the pot as if utterly exhausted. Among seedlings it is well to look out for those disposed to make good symmetrical specimens for when this is accomplished any Rex is an acceptable plant.

A letter just arrived from Miss Sessions tells of her visit to Kew Gardens near London, where she closely inspected the Begonia collection. She found a few new ones that she hopes to get by exchange as we have many they lack, but generally their names don't agree with ours, she has made copious notes and possibly when she returns we may be able to let a little light into the dark, dark way of Begonia nomenclature. She is especially intrigued with a climber, a pressed leaf of which she is treasuring to bring home, and spoke of interest in *Nelumbifolia*, new to her, here I have a surprise for her, as *Nelumb* is now growing at Rosecroft, its leaf appears to be its chief claim to notice. Kew seemed to be expecting to overawe K. O. S. with *Rubra* specimens six feet high.

FLOWER GARDEN

Con'd from Page 5

pressed closely about the roots and the rhizome be just covered. Cultivation should be shallow, just enough to kill weeds and make a dust mulch. Bone meal is the most satisfactory fertilizer and wood ashes around the plants in the fall or early spring will supply lime and potash. Bearded Iris demand lime in the soil. If you are buying new plants study the lists and get those that are suggested as being good doers in California. Many of the fine Iris grown in the east are not successful here and those produced by western growers fail to give good results east. Try some of those produced by the late Mr. Mohr.

Watch your Chrysanthemums carefully; do not let them suffer for water and keep back all suckers. Give ample nourishment. Put in some Gladiolus for late blooms—cut back all early blooming shrubs and cut all dead or withered flowers from those in your bed or borders.

THE GARDEN

Continued from Page 5

winter crop. Also onions, spinach, parsnips, radish and squash.

In the flower garden many plants can be set out, Asters, Zinnias, Salvia, Snapdragons, Daisies, Centaureas, Marigold, Petunias, Penstemon and many others, but they will need more protection and greater care until they get started, than they did earlier in the season. A piece of shingle stuck in the ground on the sunny side helps a lot, and a uniform moisture at the roots is necessary for proper

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Announcing a plan whereby you can secure your garden utilities by the sack, at very reasonable rates.

COW FERTILIZER, very fine screened, no adulterant, 75 cents per large sack delivered, or \$6.50 2 yard load.

LEAFMOULD, very spongy and heavy, sacks will weigh over 100 lbs., delivered at 75 cents per sack, or \$6.50 per load.

PLANT SOIL. A mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ black top soil, $\frac{1}{4}$ leafmould and $\frac{1}{4}$ rotted cow fertilizer, this is ready for use and a large sack can be delivered for \$1 or a 2 yard load for \$8. This is the season to repot your ferns and house plants, a sack of this will go a long ways. We will mix the above to your own specifications at the same price.

COTTONSEED STEER FERTILIZER. "Weedless", best for new lawns, delivered at \$1 per sack, or \$6.50 per yard.

OUR BLACK TOP SOIL is taken from the surface of the ground, not from a pit. Yes, there may be a few weed seeds. We have yet to see any surface soil that is entirely free from weeds; if weeds won't grow in it your plants won't. This is delivered at \$5 per 2 yard load. Quantity orders are cheaper. We also handle **DECOMPOSED GRANITE**. This makes a very artistic garden walk, or driveway, is also used for lath house floors. The color is a deep, red-brown, and when once packed down is almost as hard as concrete. This is delivered anywhere in San Diego at \$5 per 2 yard load.

All "truck load" orders of the above will be delivered upon receipt of the order, but in order to deliver the sacks at the above prices we can make deliveries on **FRIDAYS** only. Phone in your order any time, but to insure delivery on Friday it must be in by Thursday night.

The National Fernery

1223 E. 18th St., National City.

R.F.D. Box 46.

PHONE Nat. 357-J.

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growth. Remember that plants are much like human beings, and the best way to avoid diseases of various sorts and to throw off the effects of insect pests is to keep them in a strong, healthy condition.

As the Dahlia is attracting more attention all the time and there are many more of these wonderful flowers planted around San Diego this year than formerly, a few hints for the treatment of the plants so as to get better flowers may not be amiss just now, and the following general directions may be of some help to the novice. Now that dahlia plants are well up (some of them blooming) be careful about cultivating near the stalk, if done at all, it must be very shallow or the mass of feeding roots near the surface will be destroyed. Irrigate in shallow basins around plants having a mulch in the basin to prevent drying out and baking. As the plants increase in size and reach the blooming stage more moisture will be required. There are different methods of disbudding and pinching out laterals, so as to improve the quality and size of the blooms and keep the plants from growing too tall. Most growers agree that only one stalk should be left to produce the main plant, selecting the strongest sprout and pinching off the weaker ones. Also many pinch off the tip when the plant has reached a height of eight or ten inches. This starts a strong lateral growth and all buds are pinched off on each lateral except one which is left for the flower. By treating all laterals this way you get a shorter and more evenly balanced plant and fewer and better flowers.

PRIZES FOR THE DAHLIA SHOW

The following prizes have to date been contributed for the Dahlia Section of the Fall Show, to be held on or about August 22 and 23:

Novice Class

Best collection—The Amateurs' Book of the Dahlia, by Mrs. Charles H. Stout.

Best one decorative—One tuber to be selected by exhibitor from stock of Mr. H. R. Jackson.

Best one peony—One tuber, etc., by Mr. Jackson.

Best one cactus—One tuber, etc., by Mr. Jackson.

Best one show—One tuber, etc., by Mr. Jackson.

Best collection of Pompons—\$5.00 tuber order by Mr. Frank C. Mulkey.

Amateur Class

Best collection—Silver cup by Mr. H. R. Jackson.

Best three decoratives—\$5.00 tuber order by The Advance Dahlia Farm.

Best three peonies—\$5.00 tuber order by The Advance Dahlia Farm.

Begonias

Now is the time to plant

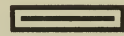
ALL KINDS

We have them in greater variety than ever before offered.

Seed can be planted as late as August.

Our prices are no higher than they should be, 25c up.

Call between two and four.



Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

POINT LOMA, CALIF.

Alfred D. Robinson, Prop.

Best collection of Pompons—\$5.00 tuber order by Mr. Frank C. Mulkey.

Open To All Class.

Largest bloom of Siskiyou or Ambassador—\$10.00 tuber order by Mrs. J. J. Broomall.

Best basket of one or more Bessie Boston varieties—\$10.00 tuber order by Bessie Boston Dahlia Farm.

One best bloom in show—\$10.00 tuber of Dahlia Mary Murphy, by Mr. A. G. Goodacre.

DAHLIA DON'TS

(By Mrs. Charles H. Stout.)

(Credit given to Dahlia Catalogue of John Scheepers, Inc., New York.)

DON'T depend solely on the glowing descriptions in catalogues. Go to the gardens and see for yourself.

DON'T buy less than two roots of a variety. One may fail.

DON'T plant a whole clump, just as you dug it up last year. Divide the tubers and have a lot.

DON'T plant a tuber unless it has an eye attached.

DON'T over propagate. It takes years for a variety to recover its strength.

DON'T set out a green plant until it has formed a tuber in the pot.

DON'T plant any Dahlia before Decoration Day—the later the better.

DON'T let the weeds grow. Cultivate constantly.

DON'T let the soil become hard. Cultivate constantly.

DON'T let the soil dry out. Cultivate Constantly.

DON'T water until you have to.

DON'T sprinkle Dahlias daily. Soak the ground twelve inches deep. This will last for weeks.

DON'T allow white fly or leaf hoppers on Dahlia plants. Spray or dust with tobacco.

DON'T let Dahlias bloom before the middle or end of August. The early flowers are the best. Have them for the shows.

DON'T believe anyone who tells you that he can grow twelve inch blooms without disbudding.

DON'T cut the blossoms when the sun is on them. Wait until they have recovered from the heat of the day.

DON'T cut Dahlias with short stem. You do them an injustice.

DON'T allow leaves under the water in the vases. They decay and in turn kill the blooms.

DON'T miss any of the Dahlia Shows this year.

DON'T fail to bring your blooms to the show.

A garden paper for garden folks. California Garden, \$1.00 per year.

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AN ADVENTURE

Continued from page 2

tive value; the other has been named *Prosopis odorata*, whose fruit is a cylindrical, spirally twisted bean, also much sought after by the Indians as feed for their livestock. These shrubs catch the drifting sands, the tops of the shrubs appearing above the dunes. A parasite, a red-fruited *Miseltote* (*Phoradendron Californicum*) saps the life out of these drouth-resistant shrubs. Incidentally, I may say that the first named species was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands a number of years ago, and so congenial is the climate to the emigrant, that the beans grow to five times the size that they do in their native habitat, and have an economic value of considerable importance.

The dunes formed by these bushes are the abiding place of a cunning little squirrel, with close cropped ears, and but little hair on his tail.

Down into the Coachella Valley, with its date orchards, its great fields of onions, soon ready for the harvest, its extensive vineyards, and broad alfalfa acres. The country is developing in leaps and bounds, yet there are hundreds of acres in their primitive desert condition, as good as any that have been redeemed by water, and made productive. They are awaiting men with some money, and a disposition to work for the development of the land. Water is abundant. Artesian wells continue to flow in some part of the valley. In some places, the water flows over the roads, thus making travel difficult.

One of the trees introduced into that country by the Bureau of Plant Industry, is a species of *Tamarix* from Arabia, its specific name: *Articulata*. A rapid grower, easily propagated from cuttings, it has transformed the appearance of the desert waste, to one of sylvan beauty.

The highway over the desert, which separates Coachella Valley from Imperial Valley, is on the south side of the Salton Sea. Stretched across the barren plain, in appearance—the road—is like unto a strip of black tape, and one wonders if an end will ever be reached. Salton is a misnomer for that body of water. It is fresh, and palatable, though warm. The time will come when a pumping plant will be located on the shore of that sea, and water forced to the highway in sufficient quantity to insure the growth of desert trees and shrubs, which will add beauty to the landscape, and delight travelers who journey that way.

Night overtook us at Brawley, a beautiful little city with clean well-kept streets, and fine public and private buildings. *Parkinsonia aculeata* is used to some extent for

street trees. Roses were in full bloom, and in great perfection, both as to foliage and flower. One of the distinctive features of all Imperial Valley towns is, that the business buildings are built out over the side walks, which insures shade during the hot, dry, summer months.

In those valleys, all sorts of devices are used to mitigate the effects of the high summer temperature. At Indio, small buildings with semi-circular roofs, are equipped with large electrically driven fans above them. Thorough ventilation between roof and ceiling of all dwelling houses, is essential to the comfort of the inhabitants.

The drive to Calexico was interesting because of the great acreage devoted to cantaloupes. Now to the fellow who may be accustomed to gardening on sandy loam the silty soil of that valley is not very attractive. It breaks up into clods, and requires skill to work it. It may not be generally known that the water from the Colorado, as it pours into the valley, is a very muddy stream, and is said to deposit an inch of silt on the land annually. Lettuce harvest was about over. Alfalfa and grain fields extended to the eastern horizon. Great is Imperial Valley from an Agricultural and Horticultural point of view!

Back to El Centro and across the desert to San Diego. What a revelation it was to a "tenderfoot". The highway is paved to the base of the mountain. For miles, the country is level, and where the river tore its way through that country some dozen years ago, and recreated Salton Sea, the stratas of silt show plainly, how it was built up during the ages, when the entire volume of water flowed into the country. Several miles of the valley is a rolling mesa, on which grows the hearty denizen of the desert known as the *Ocotilla*. The derivation of this word had always been an enigma to this writer, therefore he referred the question to Chas. Francis Saunders, botanist, traveler and writer of delightful books on native desert plants for solution. Here is his answer: "The old Aztecs called the pine tree, *ocotl*. With the passage of time, this word got chewed down in the mouths of the Mexican country people, to *ocote*, which is still current in Mexico for pine, the wood of which, sappy with inflammable resin, is frequently cut and split by them into suitable lengths and sizes to serve as torches and candles. Now the wood of *Fouqueria splendens*—the botanic name for *Ocotilla*—is similarly resinous and waxy, and because it is capable of serving for lighting material in the same way as *ocote*, the Spanish speaking Mexicans naturally made a diminutive upon the word, and called the plant *Ocotillo*, which means, "little *ocote*". So you see, the name

is part Spanish, but more Aztec, and carries the fancy back to Montezuma."

The thorny, rigid, hard wooded shrub was breaking into bloom, which, at a distance, resembles the spike of scarlet sage. In the desert countries, impenetrable hedges are made from the stems of this shrub. They are cut into suitable lengths, set in a trench, watered, and every one of them grows, making a fence proof against all animals, especially the two-legged chicken thief. The thorns are an inch long, sharp as a needle, hard as horn. This is one species of plant which will not lend itself to the gardens of the Coastal regions of the state. The experiment has been tried time and again, and failure has always been the result.

The road over those mountains is one of kaleidoscopic scenes, and of majestic grandeur. The east side of them are covered with rocks that have been baked so long by the blistering rays of the sun, that they have the appearance of being covered with a widely advertised varnish of modern make. Cacti is the only vegetation which seems able to withstand the heat and the arid atmosphere. As one approaches the coast, over a series of mountains, the transformation in the landscape is wonderful. Ocean breezes and rains afford sufficient moisture to promote the growth of all sorts of vegetation. Pine, Oak, Sycamore and other trees abound. Many of the mountain sides were draped in a garment of blue, with flowers of one species of California Lilac (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*).

Fine farms nestled in the bosoms of many mountain valleys. Oh! the grandeur and beauty of it all. The third night from home found us in this enchanted land, at one of the most picturesque camping places this scribe has met with in many years of travel over the highways and by ways of California. It is at an elevation of thirty-three hundred feet, where the Sweet Water River rushes over smooth granite boulders, amid Alder, Sycamore, Oak, Aspen and Willow trees. Birds in great variety, and in great numbers, find refuge for nesting in this sylvan retreat. The founder of this unique resort gave it the euphonious name of Los Terrentios, and was wise enough to keep the rocks and trees and shrubs as he found them. A fine landscape artist and architect is he! It would be a good thing for the world if there were more, many more, of him.

Here we found a place of REST. No rumbling of street cars, no ringing of the telephone, no howling of the "rag man", no vociferous shouting of the "newsies" with his latest edition of "extra", "all about the 'quake, or the fire". Nothing to disturb the peace of mind, or ruffle the temper of the most sensitive soul. Rest, relaxation from the daily grind of business is part of the life

of that retreat. To be sure the reader may wonder what the accommodations are for entertainment in such an ideal place.

Simple indeed are the provisions made for such of humanity as wish to break away for a season, from the formalities and the conventionalities of life, which bind the bulk of mankind to the modern, nerve racking methods of living. Cottages provided with lamps for light, oil burning stoves for cooking, wood burning stoves for heating, when heat is necessary. Cooking utensils and dishes. Water, soft and pure from a pump, which must be carried to the cottages in buckets. Beds and bedding. Cottagers must wait on themselves. Do their own cooking and their own house work. The wise man or woman will accept this mode of life for a season, and that for two reasons. First, a certain amount of physical exercise is essential to physical well being. Second, to "be boss" of the kitchen for a time should prove a delight to any woman who cares to thoroughly understand the ART of cooking, learning it in the school of experience. For the men, it ought to be a pleasing diversion from the routine of business life, to carry in the water, and carry out the garbage to a sump hole provided for the purpose.

Distracting daily papers may well be omitted for a time, to the edification of the mind, grown weary, reading the "news" every morning at the breakfast table, while he hastily gulps down a cup of coffee, and devours a few hot cakes, before rushing off to the office in a high powered machine. The question of the cost of all this restfulness may arise in the mind of the reader. The rent of the cottage we occupied, furnished as above described, with fuel provided, was two dollars and fifty cents for the day. A country store near by dispenses food as cheaply as it may be had in the city. The night we spent in that sylvan retreat was clear as crystal. The lamps of the Lord hung high in the firmament, and shone brilliantly. The moon, like unto a silver disc, moved over the surface of an amethystine sky.

The peace of God rested on that mountain scene that night, and the joy of the Lord filled the hearts of the travelers who abode there.

San Diego was our abiding place the fourth night. Like all cities, it is man made, and differs but little from all others found the world over.

Rain came down in torrents as we drove over the Coast Route, nevertheless we arrived home safe and sound, benefited in mind, from the experiences and observations of the Adventure.

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